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IN THE CLAIMS

1-69 (cancelled).

70 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim [[69]] 103 wherein said article is a diaper.

71 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim [[69]] 103, wherein the surface area defined by the absorbent core is less than or equal to about 40% of the surface area of said article.

B13 72 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim [[69]] 103 wherein the surface area defined by the absorbent core is less than or equal to about 30% of the surface area of said article.

73 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim [[69]] 103 wherein the liner is stretchable in at least one direction.

74 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 73 wherein the outer cover is stretchable in said at least one direction.

75 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim [[69]] 103, wherein the liner is stretchable generally laterally of said article.

76 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 75 wherein the liner is stretchable generally longitudinally and laterally of said article.

77 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 75 wherein the liner is extensible generally laterally of said article.

BB  
5 78 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 75 wherein the liner has a width extending laterally of said article, said liner being capable of lateral elongation of about 20 percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said liner.

5 79 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 75 wherein the liner has a width extending laterally of said article, said liner being capable of lateral elongation of about 25 percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said liner.

5 80 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 75 wherein the liner has a width extending laterally of said article, said liner being capable of substantially permanent elongation laterally of said article whereby the width of said liner is increased at least about 10 percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said liner.

81 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 75 wherein the liner has a width extending laterally of said article, said liner being capable of substantially permanent elongation laterally of said article  
5 whereby the width of said liner is increased at least about 20 percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said liner.

82 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 73 wherein the liner is generally elastic in said at least one direction.

B13 83 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim [[69]] 105, wherein the outer cover is stretchable generally laterally of said article.

84 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83 wherein the outer cover has a width extending laterally of said article, said outer cover being capable of lateral elongation of about 10 percent when the  
5 article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said outer cover.

85 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83 wherein the outer cover has a width extending laterally of said article, said outer cover being capable of lateral elongation of about 20 percent when the  
5 article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of

about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said outer cover.

86 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83 wherein the outer cover has a width extending laterally of said article, said outer cover being capable of lateral elongation of about 30 percent when the  
5 article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said outer cover.

B13 87 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83 wherein the outer cover has a width extending laterally of said article, said outer cover being capable of lateral elongation of about 40 percent when the article is  
5 subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said outer cover.

[[87]] 88 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83 wherein the outer cover has a width extending laterally of said article, said outer cover being capable of substantially permanent elongation  
5 laterally of said article whereby the width of said outer cover is increased at least about 17 percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said outer cover.

[[88]] 89 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83 wherein the outer cover has a width extending laterally of said article, said outer cover being capable of substantially permanent elongation

5 laterally of said article whereby the width of said outer cover is increased at least about 30 percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said article.

90 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83 wherein the outer cover comprises a necked laminate having at least one layer of a non-elastic neckable material and at least one layer of a non-elastic film.

B13 91 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83, wherein the outer cover is elastic.

92 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 91, wherein the outer cover is elastic at least laterally of the article.

93 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 91 wherein the outer cover comprises a polypropylene spunbond laminated with styrene-isoprene-styrene-based adhesive.

94 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim [[69]] 103 wherein the absorbent core is secured to at least one of said liner and said outer cover.

95 (Cancelled).

96 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim [[95]] 104 wherein said article is a diaper.

97 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim [[95]] 104, wherein the surface area defined by said portion of the absorbent core is less than or equal to about 40% of the surface area of the back half of said article.

B13 98 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim [[95]] 104 wherein the surface area defined by said portion of the absorbent core is less than or equal to about 30% of the surface area of the back half of said article.

99 (Cancelled).

100 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim [[99]] 106 ~~herein~~ wherein said article is a diaper.

101 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim [[99]] 106, wherein the surface area defined by said portion of the absorbent core is less than or equal to about 40% of the surface area of the front half of said article.

102 (Currently amended). [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim [[99]] 106 wherein the surface area defined by said portion of the absorbent core is less than

or equal to about 30% of the surface area of the front half of  
5 said article.

103 (New). A disposable absorbent article having a longitudinal axis, a lateral axis, and a lateral centerline generally defining longitudinal front and back halves of the article, said article comprising:

5 a liner adapted for contiguous relationship with a wearer's body;

B13 an outer cover in generally opposed relationship with the liner, at least one of said liner and said outer cover being stretchable in at least one direction, the article having a  
10 surface area defined at least in part by at least one of said liner and said outer cover; and

an absorbent core disposed between the liner and the outer cover and having a surface area which is less than about 50% of the surface area of the article, the absorbent core lying on the  
15 lateral centerline and extending longitudinally farther from said centerline into the front half of the article than into the back half of the article.

104 (New). The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 103 wherein said back half of the article has a surface area and at least a portion of the absorbent core extends into the back half of the article, said portion of the absorbent core  
5 having a surface area which is less than about 50% of the surface area of the back half of said article.

105 (New). A disposable absorbent article having a longitudinal axis, a lateral axis, and a lateral centerline generally defining longitudinal front and back halves of the



article, said article having a front end and a back end, said  
5 article comprising:

a liner adapted for contiguous relationship with a wearer's  
body;

an outer cover in generally opposed relationship with the  
liner, at least one of said liner and said outer cover being  
10 stretchable in at least one direction, the article having a  
surface area defined at least in part by at least one of said  
liner and said outer cover; and

B13  
15 an absorbent core disposed between the liner and the outer  
cover and having a front edge, a back edge, and a surface area  
which is less than about 50% of the surface area of the article,  
the front edge of the absorbent core being in a closer proximity  
to the front end of the article than the back edge of the  
absorbent core is to the back end of the article.

106 (New). The disposable absorbent article as set forth  
in claim 105 wherein said front half of the article has a  
surface area and at least a portion of the absorbent core  
extends into the front half of the article, said portion of the  
5 absorbent core having a surface area which is less than about  
50% of the surface area of the front half of said article.

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